

Press Release

For immediate release: 24 March 2020

Need skills urgently from businesses to support your efforts? Let us help.

We can connect you to the right people, skills and resources to support your response to COVID-19.

In response to Covid-19, and the demand this will place on the charity and voluntary sector at this crucial time, we have issued a call to businesses who want to support charities through volunteering their skills, services and logistical support. We can help connect you with these. This appeal was launched to secure support in mobilising the sector in response to the COVID crisis, and therefore requests should be specific to your charity's response around this.

So far over 50 companies have come forward with skills from staff currently working remotely with capacity to support. This includes business planning, project management, IT expertise– to help create online collaboration platforms and support for those working from home - and logistics, such as vehicle supply. We also have experts with skills in media support, press and legal advice wanting to help. We have only soft launched this at the moment, and expect supply of offers to increase significantly over the coming days.

We know how much the charity and voluntary sector has already done in response to the pandemic, and how much will continue to be required in the coming weeks and months. We've launched this appeal on behalf of sector partners including Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO) Charity Finance Group, Directory of Social Change, Institute of Fundraising, National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA), National Council of Volunteering Organisations (NCVO), Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), Wales Council for Voluntary Action, (WCVA) and the Voluntary Community Sector Emergency Partnership.

With an overwhelming response already, from people wanting to support their communities, our role is to help make it as easy for you to connect to the right individuals at the right time, as safely and efficiently as possible.

If you work for a charity or voluntary organisation and urgently need support from the business community in response to Covid-19, tell us what you need to support your Covid-19 response, and when, by completing [this short form](#).

Once we receive this we can coordinate and assign projects to our database of experts and companies right away, managing this for you.

If we don't have the right skills or answers we will also help source ideas from thought leaders on strategies to support your Covid-19 efforts or connect you to the right people who can.

Paul Reddish, Chief Executive of Volunteering Matters, said: *"This is an unprecedented time which calls for us all to combine our resources to support charities, partners, people and businesses to support their communities. The reality is lots of people want to help, and we have an opportunity to match the huge demand the sector faces with the spare capacity available in other sectors as their own business activities slow down. Given our experience in supporting employee volunteering and wider links in the sector, along with our own slow down in this side of our business, this feels like a natural way we can help mobilise skilled people to support the sector with the huge challenges we face in supporting people through the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions."*

Volunteering Matters is a leading UK volunteering in policy and practice with more than 50 years' experience in creating volunteering programmes and matching them with charities through our [Employee Volunteering programme](#). Our skilled staff have been redeployed to mobilise the business community and meet the needs of the charity sector at this critical time.

Note. Requests at this time are restricted to supporting you with your Covid-19 response.

Ends.

For media enquiries please contact Hillary Brown on 07999429670 or hillaryjanebrown@gmail.com.

Notes to Editors

About Volunteering Matters

Everyone in the UK should have the opportunity to thrive. So we connect people to overcome some of society's most complex issues through the power of volunteering.

We partner with communities to overcome adversity, tackling social isolation and loneliness, improving health, developing skills and opportunity and making sure young people can lead change.

And because we're a national charity, we do this at scale, sharing our expertise and building partnerships to make an even bigger impact.

We turn local knowledge and energy into action and progress, building stronger communities and a better future for all.

volunteeringmatters.org.uk

Our partners

